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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: BRAZIL URGES GUINEA BISSAU BE PLACED ON UNSC FRONT
BURNER

REF: BRASILIA 2671

11. (SBU) According to Ministry of External Relations (MRE) Africa Division Chief Joao Inacio Oswaldo Padilha, an extraordinary meeting of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) will be held 2 November in Lisbon to discuss the deteriorating political and economic situation in Guinea Bissau. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim is slated to attend. In its deliberations, Padilha said, the CPLP will review ways to coordinate with the African Union and ECOWAS on initiatives to address the Guinea Bissau crisis. It will also discuss how to increase UNSC attention to Guinea Bissau. Padilha indicated he himself will be traveling to Bissau later in the week.

12. (SBU) Although Padilha described as "pointless" the sending of troops to Guinea Bissau at this time, he believed a significant PKO deployment was almost inevitable. Through the extraordinary meeting in Lisbon and in recent statements at the UNSC, Brazil hoped to demonstrate its leadership within the CPLP and its commitment to raising the profile of the Guinea Bissau crisis. The first order of UNSC business, Padilha noted, would be for a renewal of UNOGBIS, whose mandate expires in December, and revision of the TOR for its mission -- points raised with poloff days earlier by Padilha's counterpart in MRE's United Nations Division (reftel). He also confirmed that President Lula would almost assuredly visit Guinea Bissau during his next visit to Africa, most likely during the first half of 2005.

13. (SBU) Comment: This is the second time in four days that a MRE official has raised Guinea Bissau with poloff. The MRE appears eager to get USG attention. Both diplomats provided to poloff a strong sense that Brazil fears the USG will downplay or overlook Guinea Bissau in light of other world events.

Danilovich